(c) Yes, Sir. MOUs have been signed by Gujarat Corporation with the following Israeli Coys :—

(i) The Eisenberg Group.

(ii) Dead Sea Works.

(iii) Agricultural Development Co.

(iv) Agricultural Export Co.

(v) The Elul Group.

(vi) Natafim Yiftah Irrigation Equipment and Drip Systems.

(vii) Tahal Group.

(viii) The Jacob Blaustein Institute.

Assistance from World Bank for Earthquake Victims

106. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank team has visited India to study in depth the problems caused by recent earthquake that struck Osmanabad and Latur district of Maharastra ;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank have provided any kind of assistance to Government ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the manner in which the Central and State Governments propose to spend the assistance provided by the World Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (d) A World Bank Team visited India in November, 1993 to study the possibility of providing assistance for reconstruction in the districts affected by recent earthquake in Maharashtra. The size and type of assistance will be known only after the appraisal report is finalised.

Loss due to recent Floods in U.P.

107. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of loss suffered by U.P. State due to destruction of properties and crops by the recent floods there ; and

(b) the total assistance sought by the State Government from the Centre in this regard and that actually provided by the Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The total amount of loss suffered Uttar Pradesh due to destruction of properties and crops by the recent floods as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is as follows :

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

(1) Damage to public properties such as roads, bridges, Govt. buildings, water and electricity supply system, irrigation flood protection works, schools hospitals	211.34
(2) Loss of crops . . .	402.48
(3) Damage caused to private houses	126.15

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance of Rs. 211.24 crores. Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, Government of India had released one instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 13.32 crores during the current year. Two instalments amounting to Rs. 26.64 crore due in 1993-94 were released in advance during 1992-93.

Spoiling Edible Oils by National Dairy Development Board

108. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of tons of edible oils stored by the National Dairy Development Board for years together got spoiled and had become unfit for consumption ;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity (with value) of edible oils which have become unfit for consumption due to long storage;

(c) what are the reasons for not disposing of the edible oil within the reasonable time; and

(d) whether Government have made any inquiry into the negligence causing huge loss to Government, if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Under MIO, the NDDB is required to procure and stock oils and carry inventory of oils to lean season. Whenever the availability of edible oils improves, the stocks of oil under MIO have to be carried forward for a much longer period. This alongwith the accumulation of bottom cargo over a period, at times, results in certain quantity of low quality oils which, though unfit for direct human consumption, can be used after refining. All feasible precautions have been taken by NDDB to ensure that maximum stocks under MIO are disposed of as quality edible oils.

Starvation Deaths near Amravati (Maharashtra)

109. DR. BAPU KALDATE
SMT. KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the large number of starvation deaths of tribal children near Amravati (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the situation has been made by a Central team;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to deal with the situation and to provide adequate Central assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra to implement the programme to meet the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Incentives to Tobacco Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

110. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the incentives being considered to assist tobacco farmers in increasing their yield per acre and quality of tobacco grown in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether any financial incentives will be offered to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce has been implementing tobacco schemes for increasing the yield and quality of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh. Financial assistance in the shape of subsidy is being given under above schemes to the tobacco farmers for the implementation of various components such as pest & disease control, sprinkler sets, suckercides, balanced fertilisation, roof insulation of barns, furnance sets etc.

Production of Pulses in the Country

111. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a mission oriented programme to increase production of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL